



2/23/17

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Connecticut Section, representing physicians dedicated to the health care of our state's women, supports this and other efforts to make vaccines affordable and available for our patients.

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is associated with the development of anogenital cancer (including cervical, vaginal, vulvar, penile, and anal), oropharyngeal cancer, and genital warts. Human papillomavirus vaccination can significantly reduce the incidence of anogenital cancer and genital warts.

The science behind the HPV vaccine is strong. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommend routine vaccination with HPV vaccine for girls and boys. Despite the benefits of HPV vaccines, only approximately one third of girls in the recommended age group have received all three vaccines. Compared with other vaccines recommended in the same age bracket, HPV vaccination rates in the United States are unacceptably low. Facilitating more seamless health care coverage would help reduce this disparity.

According to the CDC, if health care providers increase HPV vaccination coverage to 80 percent, it is estimated that an additional 53,000 cases of cervical cancer could be prevented during the lifetime of those younger than 12 years. Furthermore, for every year that coverage does not increase, an additional 4,400 women will develop cervical cancer.

As advocates for our patients, we believe that all women should have access to this cancer prevention, the effectiveness of which has been well established. Through the widespread use of these vaccines, we can reduce the deaths that might otherwise occur in women in our state. We could reduce the proportion of females with HPV infections, reduce the incidence of cervical cancer, and reduce the death rate from cancer.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this effort.

Sincerely,

Julia Cron, MD

American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Connecticut Section Chair

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